AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) The compound (-) tenatoprazole~~, or (-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine,~~ or one of its salts, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer.

2. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition[[,]] comprising (-) tenatoprazole~~, or (-) 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl)methyl]sulfinyl]imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole is ~~in the form~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of alkaline and earth-alkaline metal salts.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole is ~~in the salt form~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, lithium, magnesium and calcium salts.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, comprising a unitary dose comprising ~~doses containing~~ from about 10 mg to about 80 mg of active principle.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, further comprising ~~(-) tenatoprazole in combination with~~ one or more antibiotics.

Claims 7-13 (Canceled)

14. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, comprising a unitary dose comprising from about 10 mg to about 80 mg of active principle.

15. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, comprising a unitary dose comprising from about 10 mg to 80 mg of active principle.

16. (New) A method of treatment of digestive diseases and conditions comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (New) A method of treatment according to claim 16, wherein the digestive diseases and conditions are selected from the group consisisting of Barrett's syndrome, Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, atypical and oesophageal symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux, and digestive bleeding refractory to other proton pump inhibitors (PPIs).

18. (New) A method for the treatment of digestive diseases and conditions comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (-) tenatoprazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

19. (New) A method of treatment according to claim 18, wherein the digestive diseases and conditions are selected from the group consisisting of Barrett's syndrome, Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, atypical and oesophageal symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux, and digestive bleeding refractory to other proton pump inhibitors (PPIs).

20. (New) A method of treatment of an ulcer resulting from an infection by *Helicobacter pylori* comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount

of (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (New) A method of treatment of an ulcer resulting from an infection by *Helicobacter pylori* comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (-) tenatoprazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

22. (New) A method of treating or preventing the relapse of oesophagitis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (-) tenatoprazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or substrates.

23. (New) A method of treating or preventing the relapse of oesophagitis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (New) A method for the treatment of digestive diseases and conditions according to claim 16, wherein the effective amount of (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer exhibits improved pharmacokinetic properties.

25. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered orally.

26. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered via a parenteral solution.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the oral administration is via tablet, capsule or oral suspension or oral emulsion.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the parenteral administration is via an intravenous solution.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the parenteral solution comprises a tenatoprazole salt and a pharmaceutically acceptable substrate.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered in an amount of about 10 mg to about 120 mg per day.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered in an amount of about 10 mg to about 80 mg per day.

32. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered once per day.

33. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered once per day for a period of about four to about twelve weeks.

34. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer is administered first via an intravenous route and subsequently via an oral route.

35. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the tablet is administered once per week and wherein the tablet comprises about 60 mg to about 90 mg of (-) tenatoprazole substantially free of the (+) enantiomer

36. (New) A combination therapy for the treatment of digestive disease and conditions comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of (-) tenatoprazole substantially

free of the (+) enantiomer or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a second agent selected from the group consisting of a proton pump inhibitor (PPI).

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the proton pump inhibitor (PPI) is selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, rabeprazole, pantoprazole, and lansoprazole.